

# Turn 2500000 Paupers in to Taxpayers

## BOOTH-TUCKER'S VAST SALVATION ARMY PROJECT TO PEOPLE

### OUR NOW ARID WASTES AFTER IRRIGATION

COMMANDER  
BOOTH  
TUCKER

Scenes at  
the Amity, Colorado  
Salvation Army  
Colony

Post office

STREETS AND STORES

CANTALOUPE FIELD

NURSES AT THE SALVATION ARMY ORPHANAGE

#### WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Two million and a half of paupers and their families, taken from the slums of large cities, are to be metamorphosed into land owners and taxpayers, according to the promise held out by Commander Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army, in a gigantic irrigation and colonization project to be presented to Congress at the coming session.

"The United States have 100,000,000 acres of land that by irrigation will be the finest in the world," said the commander to the writer in outlining his plan.

"Now, if the Government will allow the Salvation Army to colonize 100,000 acres of this land it will be but the beginning of the colonization of the remainder of it.

"The example set by the army will be followed by other organizations, and this mighty, tract of arable country—a new world in itself—will be turned into homesteads for God's people.

"Do you realize what that means?"

The commander took a pencil and marked skilfully for a moment on a slip of paper. When he looked up his face glowed with earnestness.

"It means," said he, "that 2,500,000 men who are now starving rascals, living in misery and degradation in the overcrowded cities, will become owners of homes, and instead of being supported as objects of charity by the Government will help to support the Government.

"It means that their wives and children—more than 12,000,000 souls—will be given the right to live.

"If our nation is to be built so that it will not decay it must be built on the solid foundation of the home. There are 60,000,000 people in this great America that are entitled to homes.

"God made men in families.

"What man has the right to deny others the blessings of the hearthstone and send them wanderers over the face of the earth?"

"Why, it was only the other day that a friend asked me what I thought of marriage."

"My dear sir," said I, "you have touched on the first, the greatest question of all

life." In London one-third of the people are married and two-thirds unmarried.

"In America two-thirds are married and one-third unmarried."

"There is a whole volume of history in these two simple facts."

"Need they ask why America is a great nation?"

"Need they ask why America is ahead of all nations in commerce and in enterprise? With marriage and the home the future of any nation is secured."

**STATISTICAL LIFE-SAVERS**

**2,500,000 MEN**

"We have mighty armies for killing men. We send 100,000 men into the field to destroy life."

"Why not send 100,000—yes, 1,000,000, 2,000,000—into these great fields of the West to save life?"

The statesman who will put his hand to this plan and faithfully carry out this great project will be mightier than the hero of a hundred battles.

"Joseph did it."

"These seven years in Egypt of famine and despair were the greatest blessing that the world has ever known, for Joseph led the people from one end of Egypt to the other and laid the foundation of the home and liberty."

"We are reaping the benefits of that colonization of Egypt to-day. Why, should we, then, at this high stage of civilization leave our colonization to haphazard?"

"Moses took 2,000,000 people from Egypt to Canaan—200 miles across the country. We have a tract 1,200 miles wide, which is the garden spot of the world. Will there not arise some modern Moses to lead our millions into the new light, into the new life?"

Commander Booth-Tucker said this at the headquarters of the Salvation Army the other afternoon.

He had just returned from Ogden, Utah, where he had attended, with 1200 delegates, the National Irrigation Congress. The result of this congress will doubtless be active measures on the part of the Government to irrigate vast tracts of arid lands in the West and Southwest.

Within the next few years the United States will expend something like \$10,000,000 for irrigation purposes, but irrigated land without settlers is valueless.

It is in this connection that Booth-Tucker has made a proposition to the Secretary of State, who in turn has promised to bring the matter before President Roosevelt, with the view of having him

recommend in his message to Congress an amendment to the present laws, so that the Government may make loans to the settlers and inhabitants, thus helping them to colonize the districts to be developed.

The whole plan is to keep out the land-grabbers—the speculators, who, with the aid of dummy homesteaders, obtain possession of thousands of acres of choice lands and then the genuine settler from obtaining a farm and home.

But the head of the Salvation Army in America goes further than this.

He proposes to revolutionize the methods of colonization in the United States.

Instead of the obsolete system of some little money, Booth-Tucker proposes to give the worthy paupers an opportunity to reach independence and become taxpayers. His plan is this:

**ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRES OF IRRIGATED LAND.**

That the United States Government should make the Salvation Army the colonization agent of 100,000 acres of irrigated land, to be sold on long time payments to worthy poor persons.

In order that these settlers may properly cultivate the soil and build homes and make livelihoods for themselves and families, it is proposed that the Government should loan to each purchaser of forty acres \$500, which, with the price of the land, shall be charged up against him at a fair rate of interest—say, 5 per cent.

It is suggested that the land be sold on contract, and, until fully paid for, that the title shall remain in the United States in fee simple.

The Salvation Army asks for no remuneration for acting as agent, and the actual cost of ending settlers for the land will be nominal, as it will be conducted in connection with other philanthropic work performed by the vast machinery of the big organization.

All that the Salvation Army desires to gain from the project is the right to provide homes for poor persons who have been carefully investigated by a board of examiners.

In other words, Booth-Tucker wants the United States to follow the action of New Zealand, which was the first Government to undertake colonization on a systematic plan, and which under the advanced-to-

wards act has voted \$2,000,000 to be lent to colonists at the rate of 4 per cent per annum.

In the last few years the New Zealand Government has been buying back large tracts from private individuals to whom they were formerly sold, resurveying them and dividing them into farms of from fifty to one hundred acres, and grazing farms of from five hundred to three thousand acres, which are sold on time and values made to the proper persons to stock and equine them.

One large tract of 30,000 acres was recently bought back and subdivided in this manner.

Applicants for land in New Zealand are put through a rigid examination, and it is found that they have farms elsewhere, they are denied the privilege of occupying Government land.

The man who has neither land, money nor experience in farming is carefully "shepherded" by the Government and is put to work till he has gained the necessary knowledge, and is then helped to become a permanent settler and homemaker.

**TASK OF TRANSFORMING THE TRAMP.**

Under this tutelage the very tramp becomes, in a few years, a taxpayer, and even during the preparatory "shepherd" stage, meets all the expenses of his transportation, without being brought into competition with outside labor. There are forty-five of these farm settlements in New Zealand, the object of which is the systematic employment and training of men out of work, for whose benefit civilization elsewhere provides nothing better than almshouses, jails and potter's fields.

They cover an area of 71,200 acres, and on them the men are prepared to own their own farms.

**LOANS ARRANGED FOR WORKMEN IN THE TOWNS.**

In addition to the settlement of farm lands, loans are made to workmen in the

towns, so that they may acquire their own suburban lots and cottages.

The advances made by the Government can be either on the fixed-loan or the instalment system.

On the instalment plan mortgages are payable by seventy-three half yearly payments of principal and interest combined.

These payments amount to only \$14.60 per half year on each \$200.00 advanced, so that they will be within easy reach of the settlers.

On the fixed-loan system mortgages may be granted for any period not exceeding ten years, the principal being payable at the end of the term.

The result in New Zealand has been eminently satisfactory to all parties concerned, and the effect that was aimed at—to check the exodus from the country to the cities—has been speedily brought about.

In some instances into the details of his plan, Commander Booth-Tucker says the value of the United States Government lands in their arid state is \$1.25 an acre.

It will cost \$10 an acre to irrigate them, and when this is delivered to the settler they will represent an actual value of \$11.25.

One hundred thousand acres, ready for cultivation, could be turned over in forty-acre farms to 2,500 colonists, which, with a loan of \$250, would represent an advance of \$600.

It is asserted by the commander, however, that as soon as a colony is formed and houses and buildings are erected, the value of the land will immediately increase to \$20 an acre.

He shows this by figures as to the growth of other colonies where land that was bought for \$20 an acre is now worth \$100 and \$125 after a period of five years.

He argues, therefore, that the Government, holding the title in the land, will be amply secured, having made a cash ad-

vance of \$1,250,000 on property worth \$2,000,000, and rapidly increasing in value.

**NEW ZEALAND EXPERIMENTS HAVE PROVEN SUCCESSFUL.**

He points to New Zealand, which has been engaged in her remarkable experiment in sociology for ten years, and has thus far not lost a dollar on account of it but, on the contrary, it has become a paying institution, the Government having money at 2 1/2 per cent and lending it to colonists at 4 1/2.

"Every one who has had any experience in the question," said Commander Booth-Tucker, "is aware that the one discouraging feature in irrigation has been the occupation of the land by farmers possessing a small amount of capital."

"The heavy expense connected with keeping up the canals makes it imperative that the land should be occupied with the utmost celerity."

"Otherwise, the charges for irrigation, falling upon the few become extremely burdensome, alarming prospective settlers."

"The entire work of colonization should be done systematically under the direction of some experienced hand."

"By no means should it be done by private capital for private gain."

"If some philanthropist should advance the money, the colonization could be equally well performed by the Salvation Army by purchasing the land outright, as by an advance by the Government."

"But, as the Government is anxious to have its lands filled by good settlers, it is to me that the plan I have suggested is entirely practical and conservative."

The question as to the ability of Commander Booth-Tucker to carry forward such a project as he proposes is best answered in the statement that he has back of him the precedent of three successful American colonies to his personal credit, and others in Australia, South Af-

rica and England to the credit of the Salvation Army.

During his twenty years' residence in India as commander of the Salvation Army forces Booth-Tucker made a close study of irrigation that has served him well in the work he has been since called upon to perform.

**FARM COLONIES WERE ORGANIZED IN 1883.**

The farm colonies of the Salvation Army in America were organized in 1883 to prove the possibility of relieving the congestion of the great cities by removing worthy but poor families, furnishing them with the necessary capital and settling them as home-owners upon the land.

It was argued by some at the start that the poor persons in the cities would not go, that they would not stay, that they would not work and would not pay.

On the contrary, they have gone, have stayed, have worked and have paid. They have become owners of their own farms and homes, and the percentage of failures has been much smaller than was anticipated. In addition to this, thousands more would have settled there if the necessary capital had been available.

The colonies of the Salvation Army in America are Fort Amity, in Colorado, in the valley of the Arkansas River, on the line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, 257 miles east of Denver; Fort Rennie, in the Valley of the Saltman River, near the Bay of Monterey, Cal.; and Fort Herkier, in Ohio, about twenty miles from Cleveland.

All together the three colonies consist of some 2,000 acres of land and have a population of about 600. The families are entirely self-supporting. Some of them have already paid for their holdings.

Many of the twenty-acre farms are today valued at from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and on some of them stone houses and barns have been erected.

The settlers of these colonies were in the

Continued on page five.